



## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS  
372 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
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Los Angeles, CA 90012  
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Website: <http://sbc.lacounty.gov>

FOUNDER  
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON  
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montañó

VICE CHAIRPERSON  
Mr. Frank S. Bacio

Ms. Barbara Bigby  
Ms. Rita Hall  
Mr. John A. Hammargren  
Mrs. Anne S. Hill  
Mr. Carl E. Moore

### **MINUTES OF THE** **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING** **JANUARY 13, 2010**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

#### **OPENING CEREMONIES**

Chairperson Montañó led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

##### Present

Chairperson Eleanor R. Montañó  
Vice Chairperson Frank Bacio  
Barbara Bigby  
Rita Hall  
John A. Hammargren  
Anne S. Hill

##### Excused Absence

Carl Moore

##### Guest

Cassandra Youngblood

##### Staff

Lee Millen  
Nyla Jefferson

#### **APPROVAL OF JANUARY 6, 2010 MEETING MINUTES**

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Vice Chairperson Bacio and unanimously carried, the minutes of the meeting of January 6, 2009 were approved with the following correction:

Page 3, **San Dimas Sheriff's Station**, Commissioner Hill also visited the site.

(Commissioner Hall joined the meeting at 10:15 a.m.)

Commissioner Hammargren requested that staff keep the Commission abreast of County CEO/Department Director changes.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chairperson Montaña shared the following:

- Staff distributed the County Digest December 2009 issue and the Workplace newsletter for November/December 2009.
- Daily Breeze article, *Teens Sue County Over Education Rights*, (1/13/10)
- LA Times article, *Ex-Detainees Sue Over Education*, (1/13/10)

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Vice Chairperson Bacio reported \$1208.93 is in the Commission's Charitable Fund.

### **CORRESPONDENCE/AUDIT REPORTS**

There was none.

### **FACILITY/GROUP HOME INSPECTION REPORTS FROM JANUARY 7, 2010 TO JANUARY 12, 2010**

**Camp Dorothy Kirby – Chairperson Montaña, Vice Chairperson Bacio, and Commissioners Hall and Moore.** The facility was visited on December 15 & 17, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition. **Area of Concern:** Laundry room floor needs replacing.

**Dangerfield Group Home – 12, #2 – Vice Chairperson Bacio, Commissioners Hall and Moore** The facility was visited on December 22, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition. **Area of Concern:** Middle bedroom quick release bar access is blocked.

**Bourne Inc. – 3, #1 – Commissioners Bigby and Hill** A follow-up visit of the facility was conducted on January 8, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition; the first visit was on November 13, 2009. Remarkable improvements were found except for replacing the stove top and acid washing the bathroom shower, purchasing a second dresser, curtains, and shower curtains. Everything was very clean. Commissioner Bigby also received a fax citing all the improvements made to the facility since their first visit.

**Dream Home Care, Inc. #3 – 15, #2 – Commissioner Hammargren** The facility was visited on January 11, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition. **Areas of Concern:** Replace batteries in smoke alarm #3, food supply inadequate, and kids behaviors are worse; level 14 kids reside in level 11 home.

**Carson Sheriff's Station - Chairperson Montaña** The facility was visited on January 11, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

**Hillside Home for Children – 25, #1 – Commissioners Bigby and Hill** The facility was visited on January 12, 2010. There was no one home.

**Lakewood Sheriff Station – Chairperson Montaña** The facility was visited on January 12, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

**East Los Angeles Courthouse– Vice Chairperson Bacio and Commissioner Hammargren** The facility was visited on January 12, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition. The station would like to procure vests for the contract security officers, and the Gold Line traffic occupies much of the Civic Center parking.

**Boys Town, 4- #4 – Commissioners Hall and Moore** The facility was visited on January 7, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

### **DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF THE 2010 STRATEGIC PLAN**

Chairperson Montaña reported that there are sufficient sites to visit. Inspection sites are now being assigned by Supervisorial map and zip codes to ensure that sites visited are in the general geographic area of the respective Commissioners:

- The Commission has the following inspections sites available:
  - **1<sup>st</sup> District** - 23 group homes, 15 courthouses, 2 probation facilities, and 8 Sheriff stations
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> District** - 39 group homes, 7 courthouses, 3 probation facilities, and 6 Sheriff Stations
  - **3<sup>rd</sup> District** - 20 group homes, 8 courthouses, 3 probation facilities, and 3 Sheriff Stations
  - **4<sup>th</sup> District** - 11 group homes, 9 courthouses, 1 probation facility, and 5 Sheriff Stations
  - **5<sup>th</sup> District** - 56 group homes, 10 courthouses, 19 probation facilities, and 19 Sheriff Stations

Chairperson Montaña requested that all Commissioners commit to visiting the outlying inspection sites in the Fifth District; a carpool van could be requested. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Commission will visit these sites on the first Tuesday of each month beginning in February. Commissioner Hammargren concurred that all members should commit to the Tuesday visits, and requested that staff create a 2010 schedule for further review.

- Reevaluate the Scholarship Program:
  - Recruit Scholars from LA Trade Tech Junior College; DCFS/Group Homes; and Independent Living Program Coordinators (ILP);
  - Increase scholarships from \$250 to \$300-\$400;
  - Limit the number of scholarships to increase the award;
  - Cassandra Youngblood, Auditor-Controller, will invite the ILP Ombudsman to a forthcoming Commission meeting to provide suggestions in recruiting

scholarship applicants. Also, she will identify eligible foster children applicants; applicants also need monies to pay for the college entrance application fees.

- Group Home Closures:
  - A list will be reviewed.
- Inspection Site Visits
  - When visiting the Men's Central Jail, Pitchess Detention Center, and the Twin Towers the inspection should be conducted with all Commissioners present and pairing off to comprehensively inspect given areas. The larger facilities cannot be adequately inspected in one day with one or two Commissioners;
  - Commissioner Hammargren requested Grand Jury Reports, Command Inspections, DOJ Reports, and Merrick Bob Reports to ensure that inspections are carried out thoroughly. Staff was directed to request Command Inspection Reports from Commander Ruiz, LASD, that reflect separate reporting on Men's Central Jail, Pitchess Detention Center, and the Twin Towers;
  - Commissioner Hammargren suggested that inspection reports citing issues and recommendations of these larger facilities should be documented on Commission Stationery, etc., and not on the Inspection Report forms used for site visits.

The Commission is mandated to meet each Wednesday. The Commission will continue discussion of the 2010 Strategic Plan at the January 27 meeting.

(Commissioner Hammargren was excused.)

### **NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Ms. Youngblood will report back on recommended changes to the Inspection Form at the January 27, 2010 meeting.

### **MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda.)**

There was none.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was none.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairperson Montaña adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m. in memory of Don Knott, auto dealership owner and philanthropist who donated over the years to Youth for Education, and many Non-Profit Organizations.